

The Grebe

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 15

SUMMER 2015

Buy a Brick to Support

Friends of Deer

Flat NWR

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Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge

Our mission is to promote,
protect and provide resources to
preserve and enhance

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

for the enjoyment of present
and future generations.



Friends of Deer Flat Board of Directors

Bob Christensen, President
Bob Ruesink, Vice-President
Tricia Matthews, Treasurer
Kathleen McCarter, Secretary
Mike Shipman, Member
Lynn Wilfling, Member

Contact Information

13751 Upper Embankment Rd
Nampa ID 83686

Email: friendsofdfwr@gmail.com
[www.facebook.com/
FriendsofDeerFlat](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsofDeerFlat)

Bob Faller
Newsletter Editor

President's Message

It has been a busy year thus far for
Friends board members and volunteers.

A heartfelt "thank you" to all who
conducted or helped with the following
activities:



- ❖ Publishing a spring newsletter
- ❖ Continuing support of the new refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP)
- ❖ Pursuing membership renewals and recruitment
- ❖ Providing about 80 lunches for Earth Day and 70 for BioBlitz volunteers at the refuge
- ❖ Manning information booths at the February Cast for Kids event at Karcher Mall, at Nampa Water Days in May, Nampa Farmers Market in May, at Capitol City Public Market in June, and at BioBlitz in June
- ❖ Holding an outreach event at the Nampa Coffee Garage
- ❖ Awarding and paying for *Discover Wildlife Journey* bus scholarships to six different Treasure Valley schools this spring
- ❖ Planting additional flora and manicuring the pollinator garden, as well as installing two new benches in the garden and laying down patio bricks
- ❖ Providing birdseed, along with other donors, and organizing volunteers to fill the bird feeders at The Coop and at the visitor center through May of this year
- ❖ Printing 2,500 leaflets which describe the life cycle and habitat needs of the Western and Clark's Grebes at Lake Lowell
- ❖ Conducting a campaign through Idaho Gives to help fund Friends and refuge events
- ❖ Finding and committing sponsors for Kids Fish Day

Besides monthly board meetings, the board conducted training and planning sessions to identify continuing and future actions for the Friends group to pursue. At a minimum, we elected to continue supporting the following efforts: develop memberships, support refuge programs for kids, feed wintering birds, award DWJ bus scholarships, improve the pollinator garden, operate the osprey webcam, provide a plaque and interpretive display for Della's memorial trail, publish a quarterly newsletter, and continue litter pickup on Iowa Curves.

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President's Message (continued from Page 1)

Future short term goals include: Enhance the Friends Facebook page, design and maintain a Friends website, sponsor a Wildlife Art show, carry out an Outreach Initiative, and update the Board Members' notebook.

Two specific long term initiatives include

- (1) identify and carry out a Friends sponsored Conservation Project on the refuge, and
- (2) help fund and erect a new Environmental Education Facility on the refuge.

For more information on any of these activities that might interest you, contact me at:

rcloydchirs@gmail.com.

*Best Regards,
Bob Christensen, President*

Looking for Visitor Counting Surveyors



Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge is looking for **Visitor Counting Surveyors**. Surveyors drive around the Refuge and count the total number of visitors at each Refuge access point. The data is used to estimate total Refuge visitation.

This is a long-term, year-round opportunity. Two shifts are available; each shift takes about 2 hours:

- Four weekday afternoons and two weekends during the month: Between 12 pm and 4pm.
- Four weekday mornings and 2 weekends during the month: Between 8am and 12pm.

Please call Mackenzie Tietjen, Volunteer Coordinator, at mackenzie_tietjen@fws.gov / 208-467-9278

Focus on Resident Volunteers

Tammy Boyd ended her volunteer stint on **May 1**. We so much appreciate her expertise and input on our educational programs in the schools, the Discover Wildlife Journeys, grant applications, etc.

Joan Conner was the "RV Volunteer" from **April 1** through the end of BioBlitz on **June 13**. The kiddos loved her ukulele playing during the "Reading at the Refuge" programs. She was also a great help during the Discover Wildlife Journeys; her favorite station was the water testing; she loved to get her feet wet!

The new "RV Volunteers" will be **Mike and Pat Brooks**. They are arriving sometime in July.

Elena Vanasse Torres started on **May 25**. She is a Directorate Fellows Resource Assistant. She is spearheading the Refuge's efforts to connect with and get the support of the Latino community in the Treasure Valley. She comes to us from her studies at Arizona State University. She will be here through **August 14**.

David Brackett started his volunteer stint on **June 17**. He comes to us from Florida. He has volunteered with NPS, USFS, and USFWS. He will be helping to deliver fun environmental education activities to summer visitors, and implementing and expanding the Refuge Ambassadors program... interacting with the public at high use areas like LDRA and the UD, as well as on popular trails.

Thanks to the Friends for funding bus scholarships so that the kiddos could participate in the Discover Wildlife Journeys, food for the volunteers and staff during BioBlitz and Kids' Fishing Day, donation toward KFD prizes, providing refreshments for the Latino Community Leaders get together, etc.



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Osprey Webcam Status

by Bob Christensen, Webcam Coordinator



As stated in our previous newsletter, the webcam has been down for several months because of a change in our internet provider and other technical difficulties. Our partner, Fiberpipe, has diagnosed some problems with the electrical setup and will soon be replacing some damaged parts. So stay tuned.

In the meantime, the local osprey pair has been unsuccessful in raising a family this year. They returned to the nest site and reconstructed the nest, but for some reason were not able to produce eggs. However, both raptors still remain in the area around the nest and continue to feed off the fish in Lake Lowell. On a brighter side, the osprey pair which nests near the refuge maintenance yard is rearing at least two chicks.

DID YOU KNOW YOU COULD DONATE TO THE FRIENDS OF DEER FLAT THRU AMAZON SMILE????

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support **FRIENDS OF DEER FLAT WILDLIFE REFUGE** at no cost. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to **THE FRIENDS**.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to smile.amazon.com from your computers' web browser or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), select **FRIENDS OF DEER FLAT WILDLIFE REFUGE** to receive donations from YOUR eligible purchases before you begin shopping. AmazonSmile will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at "smile.amazon.com" will result in a donation to **THE FRIENDS**.



THE FRIENDS ENJOYED A SUCCESSFUL **BIOBLITZ 2015 EVENT**

WE HAD AN EXCITING FISH IDENTIFICATION GAME AND INFORMATIVE BOOTH DISPLAY, AND PROVIDED A TASTY VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON. OTHER FRIENDS HELPED WITH KIDS FISHING DAY. THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HELPED MAKE IT A SUCCESS—AL & LEE, KATHLEEN, MARY JO, CATHY, TRICIA, HAILEY, BOB F. , BOB C., BOB R. & HEIDI

KIDS FISHING DAY

June 13, 2015



– by Heidi Zschach, Friends Member

Collecting donations for Kids Fishing Day (KFD) gets more fun and rewarding each year! It is extremely heartening to see members of our business community increasingly value Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge as a beneficial place to them as a business. Donors now see the Friends as an excellent entity through which they can show their growing dedication to our community and this event. Returning donors this year were Sportsman's Warehouse, Dicks Sporting Goods, Big 5 Sporting Goods, Howard's Tackle Shoppe, AAA Bait and Jim's Pawn Shop.

As several visitors informed me, Kids Fishing Day is becoming a well-known event in our community and something families look forward to each year. It was truly enjoyable to see the impact KFD donations have started to have in our community.

One such example was an enthusiastic young boy who brought his grandpa and the fishing pole he'd won at last year's KFD. He was very proud to tell us about bringing back the fishing pole he'd won, along with the fact that his grandpa had "never" fished at Lake Lowell, but that he was going to show him "how." Another example was a woman who brought her four children last year and decided to bring her sister's three children this year as well! Their grandmother also came along, and each of the children was able to win a fishing pole.

Some of the most wonderful moments came when mom's arrived with several children. Several timidly told us they, themselves, had no fishing experience, but they wanted their children to learn to fish. They had no fishing poles—but again, they really wanted to learn. We reassured them that staff members were on hand to teach them everything they needed to know, that we had poles to loan them, and that if they visited all 6 educational stations, they would be able to earn a fishing pole. The smiles on their faces were only "beat" by the bigger, gratitude-laden smiles on their faces as they left the event with new fishing poles, happy kids and knowledge of how to fish that will last a lifetime. What a rush!!!

Upon arrival, we asked each group of visitors where they learned about the Kids Fishing Day. Common replies were the internet, Facebook, a flyer, a friend, or that they came last year. But one of the most common comments was, "Everybody knows about this!" It seems that Kids Fishing Day is becoming a well-loved community tradition. What better event could the Friends sponsor than this? It's just so exciting!

Stan Culling, the Assistant Refuge Manager and "mastermind" of Kids Fishing Day, had made it known to the Friends that it would be ideal if he could get about 30 fishing poles donated this year. Our donors blew past that number by a long shot this year; donating well over 100 fishing poles along with tackle, gear and even a much needed tackle box. Visitors to the Kids Fishing Day event got to visit stations that taught them about water safety, fish biology, fishing ethics, the ancient art of fish print making and fishing basics, which included knot-tying. They were able to take home U.S. Fish & Wildlife coloring books and other information that taught them about wildlife refuges, conservation and fishing. Most importantly, each child that participated was able to win a fishing pole.

This successful activity will keep them returning with their families to Lake Lowell and the refuge for months and years to come!

Engraved Bricks to Beautify the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge Pollinator Garden

Friends of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge are selling engraved bricks to help support the many activities at the refuge. Your brick will be made a permanent part of the Pollinator Garden located just behind the Refuge Visitor Center. Whether you are honoring a friend or family member, or celebrating a special occasion, our engraved bricks make a wonderful and lasting gift.



Each brick is 4" x 8", and may contain up to three engraved lines ... maximum of 15 characters and spaces per line.



The donation price per brick is \$35, or 2 bricks for \$60. You may order as many bricks as you want.

Make check or money order payable to and mail to:

**Friends of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge (c/o Bricks)
13751 Upper Embankment Road, Nampa, ID 83686**

Engraving information (please print)

Line 1 _____
Line 2 _____
Line 3 _____

Your information

Your Name: _____
Address / City/State/Zip: _____
Phone number: _____ Email: _____

New Friends of Deer Flat Website Coming Soon ...

The website for the Friends is under development. The first review and approval of the wireframe design have been completed. The next stage is to fill in the wireframe with color and content.

The Friends will need to decide where to host the website. Hosting plans range from around \$7/month to around \$10/month for our needs. Also I am looking at other domain names, at least two, for primary use. These would be shorter domain names, easier to remember and type.

Any questions and suggested items to include on the website can be directed to Mike Shipman, Board Member (www.mikeshipman.com / www.blueplanetphoto.com / 208.466.9340)

Yes!

I want to be a member.

Just copy this page, cut on dotted line above, complete the requested information below, then mail it along with your annual dues to:

Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge
13751 Upper Embankment Road
Nampa ID 83686

 Name(s)

 Address

 City/State /Zip

 Phone

 Email

Annual Membership Levels (Please mark one)

_____ Owl (senior or student)	\$ 10.00
_____ Deer (individual)	\$ 15.00
_____ Fox (family)	\$ 25.00
_____ Osprey	\$ 50.00
_____ Eagle	\$ 100.00
_____ Goldeneye	\$ 500.00



Join
 the
 Friends
 of
 Deer
 Flat
 Refuge

Yes!

I want to be involved.

Please mark all areas of interest and ways you'd like to participate.

- ☐ Habitat Enhancement
- ☐ Staffing the Bookstore
- ☐ Organizing events
- ☐ Litter lifts
- ☐ Weed eradication
- ☐ Project Management
- ☐ Photographic Documentation of Events and Activities
- ☐ Historian
- ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ Publicity / Public Relations
- ☐ Grant Writing
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Lobbying and Advocacy
- ☐ Board of Directors
- ☐ Advisory on specific policies, protocols and processes.
- ☐ Other (please specify)

